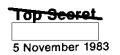
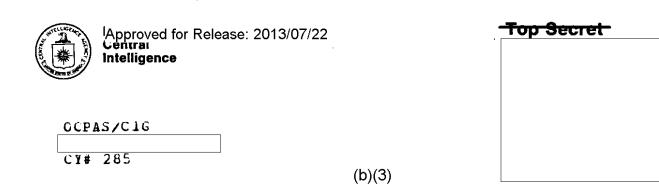
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## **USSR-US-LEBANON-SYRIA: Warning to US**

Moscow's warning to the US against military action in Lebanon in
an official TASS statement yesterday appears designed to reassure
Syria of Soviet support without committing the USSR to a particular
response.
The statement claims that remarks by the President and the
Secretaries of State and Defense indicate the US is planning a large-
scale military operation against "patriotic forces" in Lebanon. It
asserts that these alleged plans, plus the US action in Grenada, prove
that the US has elevated international terrorism to the level of state
policy. The statement concludes by noting that the "leading circles"
of the USSR warn the US "with all seriousness" that US military
action in Lebanon would have "grave consequences."
action in Ecoation would have grave consequences.
Syrian media began claiming last week that the US and Israel are
preparing a strike against Syrian targets. Meanwhile, TASS
announced yesterday that Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam will visit
Mossow during the first half of Nevember
Moscow during the first half of November.
Comment: The statement puts Coulet appealtion to any 110
Comment: The statement puts Soviet opposition to any US
military action in Lebanon on record, but Moscow probably does not
expect an effect on Washington's calculations. The Soviets failed to
threaten specific countermeasures and did not say that their vital
interests are at stake. A TASS "statement" indicates a higher-level
sanction than regular media commentary but carries less weight than
a government statement.
The Soviet statement is unlikely to impress Damascus. It follows
similar Syrian claims by more than a week, and it refers only to US
preparations to hit Lebanese, not Syrian, forces. Moscow displayed
the same caution about taking a public stand on US-Syrian frictions
during the fighting in and around Beirut in September.
Khaddam probably will brief the Soviets on the Lebanese
reconciliation talks in Geneva, which the TASS statement ignored. He
may attempt to smooth over any differences with Moscow over
Syria's dispute with PLO leader Arafat.
Syria 3 dispute with FLO leader Arabat.
Oyna's dispute with FLO leader Arabat.





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